

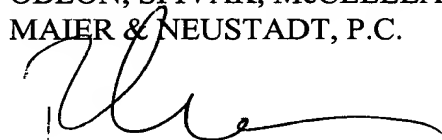
elastomeric knitted padding section 11 does not meet the limitations of the present claims.

For example, there is no indication in the Abstract that polymeric cushioning material should be thicker at one portion and thinner in another, nor is there an indication that docking means should be present at the distal end thereof. In this regard, the reference also fails to suggest the docking means as now claimed in Claim 81, which is molded to fabric on the exterior of the liner. See Figure 9 herein. This configuration provides several benefits in that it maximizes user comfort, is easy to manufacture, provides excellent wear, etc.

In similar fashion, the claims are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Japan '861, Norvell, Laghi or Helmy. As the Examiner will note from the above amendment, particularly preferred embodiments of the present invention have been pointed out in the claims. These preferred features are nowhere disclosed or suggested by the applied references, and for this reason Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection.

Respectfully submitted,

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